

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 H-03

ACDA-19 EB-11 OMB-01 /114 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:TSIMONS:SDD

8/2/73 EXT. 21862

APPROVED BY D/MBFR:JDEAN

PM:DCA:VBAKER

SC:MPOWER

EUR/RPM:RJMAGUIRE(SUBSTANCE)

ASD:RBARTHOLOMEW

JCS-J-5:WGEORGI

CDA:DLINEBAUGH

S/S: MR. GAMMON

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O R 030012Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: GUIDANCE FOR AUGUST 3 NAC DISCUSSION OF  
BELGIAN JULY 25 PAPER

1. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN AUGUST 3  
NAC DISCUSSION OF BELGIAN PAPER ON REDUCTIONS.

2. THE PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE SCOPE AND METHOD OF RE-  
DUCTIONS INTRODUCED BY AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE IN THE  
COUNCIL ON JULY 25 IS WELL CONCEIVED AND WELL THOUGHT OUT.  
IN FACT, AS WE MENTIONED IN OUR PROPOSAL ON JULY 27, WE

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WERE ABLE TO DISCUSS IN ADVANCE SOME OF ITS CONCEPTS WITH

OUR BELGIAN FRIENDS AND MAKE VERY CONSIDERABLE USE OF THEIR IDEAS IN FORMULATING OUR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. COMPARISON DEMONSTRATES THE UNDERLYING SIMILARITY OF OUTLOOK OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING WHAT IS DESIRABLE IN TERMS OF REDUCTION APPROACHES. IN PARTICULAR, BOTH THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL AND THE REDUCTION APPROACH WE SUGGESTED ON JULY 27 SEEK QUOTE JUDICIOUS COMBINATIONS END QUOTE OF PREVIOUS PROPOSALS -- TO USE THE WORDS OF THE BELGIAN PAPER -- WHICH CUMULATE THE ADVANTAGES OF EACH WHILE REABSORBING THEIR RESPECTIVE DISADVANTAGES. AND THEY DO SO ALONG THE SAME BASIC LINES.

4. BOTH POSTULATE THE FINAL MBFR OBJECTIVE OF CEILINGS ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA TO BE REACHED THROUGH TEN PERCENT REDUCTION IN NATO GROUND FORCES AND REDUCTION OF WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCES TO THE SAME LEVEL, IN PHASES. IN BOTH, THE FIRST PHASE WOULD INVOLVE REDUCTIONS IN SOVIET AND US FORCES ONLY, AND THE NEXT WOULD SEEK TOTAL BALANCE BASED ON A NATO FORCE LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT OF THE PRE-REDUCTION FORCE LEVEL IN THE REDUCTION AREA.

5. THERE ARE A FEW DIFFERENCES, MAINLY, WE BELIEVE, IN EMPHASIS. TWO OF THESE DIFFERENCES MAY BE MENTIONED HERE. THE FIRST CONCERNS THE DEFINITION OF THE SIZE OF WESTERN -- AND THUS EASTERN -- REDUCTIONS IN THE FIRST PHASE. THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL QUITE PLAUSIBLY DEFINES THE FIRST-PHASE REDUCTION OBJECTIVE BY WORKING BACKWARD FROM THE OVERALL COMMON CEILING OBJECTIVE AND THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN US AND OTHER NATO REDUCTIONS. IT ARRIVES AT A FIGURE OF 17 PERCENT US REDUCTIONS IN THE FIRST PHASE. WE FOUND THAT THIS FIGURE MAY BE UNDULY DEPENDENT ON DATA ACCURACY, AS WELL AS UNWIELDY IN NEGOTIATION. MORE IMPORTANT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL TO DEFINE THE FIRST-STAGE OBJECTIVE IN TERMS OF WHAT WE WANT FROM THE SOVIETS. IT IS FOR THIS REASON WE RECOMMEND A WESTERN DEMAND FOR A SOVIET TANK ARMY,

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WITH THE REDUCTION PERCENTAGE DETERMINED IN CONSEQUENCE.

6. SECOND, FOR THE REASONS WE HAVE STATED IN THE COUNCIL, THE US DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WISE TO DEFINE THE SECOND PHASE AT THIS TIME, BEYOND STATEMENT OF OUR OVERALL COMMON CEILING OBJECTIVE. AS A RESULT, THE SPECIFICITY CALLED FOR IN PARAGRAPH 6.D.II. OF THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT, IN OUR VIEW, FIGURE IN THE ALLIANCE NE-

GOTIATING APPROACH WE SHALL BE DEVELOPING IN THE COMING WEEKS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THESE POINTS WITH OUR BELGIAN COLLEAGUES AND BELIEVE WE ARE NOT FAR APART. WE BELIEVE BELGIAN PAPER SHOULD BE REMANDED TO SPC ALONG WITH US AND UK PAPERS AS MISSION SUGGESTED IN ITS PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM AUGUST 1.

7. IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF JULY 27 US PRESENTATION, SHOULD EARLIER QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WEST GERMAN TERRITORIALS INCLUDED IN NATO INDIGENOUS FORCE BASE USED IN JULY 27 SUBMISSION, YOU MAY WISH IN WHATEVER FORM CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO ELABORATE THAT THE LARGER RESERVE ELEMENT OF FRG TERRITORIAL FORCES WAS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR COMPUTATION, BUT THAT THE ACTIVE ELEMENT WAS INCLUDED. ROGERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE152750  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN PM  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: GUIDANCE FOR AUGUST 3 NAC DISCUSSION OF BELGIAN JULY 25 PAPER  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO  
**To:** NATO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005